

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY

U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

U. S. INSPECTION OF DEHYDRATED "SPUDS"

More potatoes are dehydrated for the Armed Forces than any other vegetable. That's because potatoes can't be processed as easily any other way, and fresh potatoes are too difficult to ship as they are.

Out near Boise, Idaho you'll find one of the largest dehydrating plants in the world. And right now, they are converting tons of potatoes and onions into about a tenth their original weight, and shipping them off to the far corners of the world, wherever our men in military service depend on the supplies from this country.

One of the important jobs in this big Idaho dehydrating plant is one of inspection. In fact, as many as 5 women food inspectors from the Department of Agriculture may be on the job at any one time. The plant operates on the swing shift 24 hours a day. The average output for a day will fill about 6 freight cars.

But before any of these dehydrated potatoes can be shipped to the Army they must merit the approval of one of these trained food inspectors. Part of their job is to make sure that the food processed in the plant is handled under strictly sanitary conditions...that the plant itself and the people who work there meet certain high standards set up by the Department of Agriculture.

In addition to checking the physical facilities of the plant, these inspectors note the condition of the fresh vegetables when they're brought in. They watch every step of the dehydration process...from the paring and cutting to the final packaging.

Dehydrated potatoes for the Armed Forces are packed in 5 gallon cans...heavy tin-plated cans. And the cans, as well as the potatoes, fill a variety of needs. In far off places, the men improvise the cans into handy cooking equipment. They use them for stoves and grills...and even punch holes in the bottoms of the cans and use them for showers.

#

(7-17-45)



